GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2755
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
IMPORTS OF CROPS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports are discouraging Indian farmers from growing oilseeds;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any strategy is being mooted out to meet the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b): In view of large import of edible oils triggered by depressed prices of oil in the international Market, the market prices of some oilseeds like Soyabean, Sunflower, Rapeseed and Mustard were prevailing below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by Government of India during the year 1999-2000 and therefore Government in order to protect the interest of oilseed growers, had instructed the NAFED to carry out the purchase operation of oilseed produce on Minimum Support Price.

(c) & (d): The Central Government is encouraging the cultivation of oilseeds in the country by providing various incentives by way of subsidies on various critical inputs under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) which is being implemented in various States in the country. Moreover, the Government of India has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices of oilseed crops every year well before the sowing season of oilseed crops and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseed grower`s produce on the MSP in case the market prices of oilseeds fall below the Minimum Support Price.